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Dmt
3-18-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Opara
Serial No. To Be Assigned
Filed: Concurrently Herewith
For: METHODS OF ENCAPSULATING CELLS

January 23, 2002

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment before examining the pending application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 2, after “Related Applications” please substitute the following paragraph.

A1 --This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/453,348 filed December 1, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of commonly owned, copending application Serial No. 09/273,407, filed March 22, 1999, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-5, 14-76 and 78-83, without prejudice thereto.

Please enter the following amended claims:

A2 6 (amended). A product according to claim 77, where said microcapsule comprises a polysaccharide gum surrounded by a semipermeable membrane.